

eric firestone gallery

Charles DuBack (b. Fairfield, CT, 1926; d. Tenants Harbor, ME, 2015) was the first of ten born to Czechoslovakian parents. After graduating high school, he volunteered with the U.S. Navy from 1944-46. DuBack later attended art school on the G.I. Bill in New Haven, Newark, and Brooklyn. The artist also spent five summers at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, beginning in 1950, where his affection for Maine and many lifelong friendships began. In 1954, DuBack and his wife, artist Daphne Mumford, purchased their first home in Maine, and split time between mid-coast Maine and Manhattan for nearly forty years. DuBack became a founding member of two co-operative galleries in New York: Area Gallery on East 10th Street (1958-1965) and Landmark Gallery on Broome Street (1972-1982).

DuBack's work ranges from his early color field and stripe paintings of the 1950s, to portraiture and iconic figurative ensembles of the 1960s-70s, to landscape (1970s-80s), and finally to vibrant "notational abstractions" of nature (1990-2015) inspired by the ever-evolving natural world he observed in Maine.

DuBack's 1960s and 70s figurative work has a brevity, accuracy, and gestural mark-making, which can be associated with artists such as Alex Katz and Lois Dodd, who were colleagues and friends in New York and Maine. He was interested in maintaining subjectivity through the trace of his hand on the canvas. DuBack developed a unique process of adhering real objects, like pieces of clothing, flags, and sailcloth, to his compositions, calling this work "projections" or "sculpto-paintings."

By 1990, DuBack moved full time to his home on the Saint George River, in Tenants Harbor, Maine, where he lived and worked until his death in 2015.

DuBack's first solo show was in 1953 with Roko Gallery in New York, NY. His work was included in the 1962 Museum of Modern Art exhibition *Recent Painting U.S.A: The Figure*. In 2009, the Portland Museum of Art celebrated DuBack's oeuvre with a major retrospective. DuBack's work is found in the collections of the Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC, The Emory Collection, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, the New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT, the Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME, and the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, WV, among others. He is represented by Eric Firestone Gallery where his work is regularly exhibited.

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